Vol. XIV, No. 51 HUMAN EVENTS December 21, 1957

Article Section II

ARE SUBSIDIES SINFUL ONLY FOR SOCIALISTS?

By DAVID SHEA TEEPLE

MANY AN OUTSPOKEN "capitalist" should re-examine his position on Government subsidies. Is he opposed to subsidies as a matter of economic principle, or opposed only to those which support ventures he believes to be "socialistic"? In other words, are subsidies sinful only for socialists? Are they legitimate when applied to private industry?

The author would not take the position that subsidies *per se* are an evil thing. Historically, the development of the West, the maintenance of the merchant marine and the building of our aircraft industry demonstrate that subsidies by the Government have made great contributions to the general welfare.

It is with the abuses of subsidy that private industry must concern itself today. Any industry that accepts money from the Government, directly or indirectly, when such funds are not essential for the performance of an activity advantageous to the general welfare, is contributing to state socialism.

This situation is highlighted by the appropriations for the Atomic Energy Commission in the last session of Congress. The Democratic majority "forced" about $58 million on the Atomic Energy Commission, which this bureaucratic agency testified it did not want. (This in itself was something rather new in the annals of Big Government.) The money, according to the law, must be used to construct atomic power reactors. The AEC is now instructed to spend $100 million to finance and own small power plants which it will sell to cooperatives within a ten-year period.

The Atomic Energy Commission bitterly fought this provision of the law, claiming that it was socialism and would lead to Government-owned public power. Yet the same Atomic Energy Commission, without batting an eye, is perfectly willing to contribute $4.2 million for a private reactor that the Detroit, Edison and other private utility groups intend to build at Lagoona, Michigan. The Atomic Energy Commission and private industry did not scream when the Commission poured the taxpayers' funds into the Shippingport, Pennsylvania reactor to the tune of almost $100 million.

No private utility company has shouted subsidy when it has negotiated "partnership" deals with the AEC for the construction of reactors. (Under these agreements the Commission first makes a cash contribution; second, it waives the use-cost of the nuclear fuel; third, it buys back plutonium at a subsidized price; and fourth, it performs research and development functions *gratis.)* As a matter of fact, almost all of the private utilities are trying to get their hands into the AEC pocket.

In 1956 AEC spent $18.6 million for research conducted in "nearly every research organization and major college and university in the country." This is in addition to the hundreds of millions of dollars spent by the AEC for research in its own facilities. Not one educator has dared call this a "subsidy," or has indicated the potential danger of socialism in American education as a result of such activity.

ACTUALLY, SUBSIDIES are subsidies no matter who gets them. It is slightly ridiculous for private utility companies and great industrial corporations to view with alarm the subsidy of Government-owned reactors and at the same time stand with their hats in hand and take every nickel they can get from the Government on reactor projects in which they are interested.

The absurdity of the entire situation is unwittingly revealed by a recent newspaper article appearing under the signature of Eugene Zuckert, a former Democratic Commissioner of Atomic Energy. In listing some proposals for speeding up the "Atoms-for-Peace" program, Zuckert says:

1. *Economic incentive to build atomic power plants in the United States does not exist because of the excessive cost and lack of possible profits.*

2. *Our reactor manufacturers must look abroad for markets.*

3. *The British have a large-scale power reactor with which they threaten to capture the world market.*

4. *In Europe alone there is a $5 billion market for reactors.*

5. *United States reactor manufacturers must be subsidized by the Government if they are going to build a reactor to compete with the British.*

6. *It must be recognized that the nations which might purchase these reactors "cannot purchase them unless they are given subsidies."*

This is the kind of logic we generally associate with the "Mad Hatter" of *Alice in Wonderland:* We don't need atomic reactors for power and, therefore, we should subsidize our private industry to build them so that we can prevent the British from

Published weekly at 1835 K Street, N.W., Washington 6, D. C. • Copyright 1957 by HUMAN EVENTS, INC.

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

seizing a world market in which the prospective customers have no money with which to buy the product. What a way to run a railroad!

Strangely enough, American business is pushing this program. Not one responsible voice has been raised in the business community to point out the economic insanity of subsidizing business to build machines for nonexistent customers. The fact of the matter is, there is money to be made building these machines and apparently American business is perfectly willing to take the profits and allow the American taxpayer to pick up the tab.

This phenomenon – of capitalists screaming "socialism" every time subsidies involve Government ownership and shouting "free enterprise" when they are waiting in line with their hands out – is not confined to atomic energy alone. Naturally, it is difficult to determine the amount of subsidies now being paid for by the American taxpayer, since everyone has a different definition for the word. An industrialist might readily agree that price supports for farmers are a socialistic subsidy, but vehemently deny that a protective tariff or a rapid tax amortization falls in the same category.

The best approximation of the extent of direct Government subsidy can be obtained by an examination of the item in the Federal Budget whimsically entitled, "Current Expenses for Aids and Special Services."

Here is what the figures reveal:

AIDS AND SPECIAL SERVICES
(In millions of dollars)

Fiscal year	*Agriculture*	*Business*	*Labor*	*Veterans*	*General Aids*
1949	341	773	175	5,549	1,091
1950	601	789	228	5,583	1,264
1951	905	809	197	4,515	1,327
1952	463	1,041	200	4,710	1,364
1953	305	934	215	4,178	1,506
1954 (estimate)	609	918	204	4,057	1,672
1955 (estimate)	549	609	216	4,095	1,656
Total	3,773	5,873	1,435	32,687	9,880

In calendar 1954, it is interesting to note, maritime organizations received $327,500,000 and airlines $302,123,000. Since 1937 the maritime and airline subsidy has amounted to about $1.6 billion and the present annual payment to these two groups exceeds $160 million. How much the railroads are receiving is impossible to estimate because of the manner in which it is paid.

THIS BUSINESS of subsidies, of course, is not new. Between 1827 and 1866 the Government granted almost 6.5 million acres of public lands to private organizations to stimulate canal building and river navigation. Between 1850 and 1870 over 180 million acres of Federal and state land were granted to railroads to stimulate the development of transportation.

Powerful arguments could be presented to justify the principle behind these actions. None of these arguments can erase the fact, however, that any time one segment of our economy gets something for nothing, somebody else has to pay. Whatever the Government gets it has to take from the people. Whatever it gives out generally represents but a small portion of the original levy with a terrific "carrying charge."

Additionally, times have changed. What at one time may have been a very desirable program may now have degenerated into a dole. Continued Government subsidies to what is supposed to be private enterprise can have only one outcome. Subsidies, even to private business, are not "sinful" from the socialist point of view – for socialists aim at complete Government control of the economy. Any subsidy extended to any group advances them that much closer to their goal.

By the same token, then, subsidies are doubly sinful for capitalists. First, because it is inconsistent for them to oppose a "handout" for others but to accept one themselves; and second, because subsidies lead to the regimentation of the economy under state socialism. One day capitalists may find that, as a result of their acceptance of subsidies, they must also accept a daily pushing-around by bureaucrats in order to exist at all. Industry cannot be both greedy and free.

David Shea Teeple has held many responsible positions in the Executive and Legislative branches of Government. He is now a consultant to industry and to several Congressional committees and Executive departments. His most recent contribution to HUMAN EVENTS was "What Can You Buy With a Dollar?" (December 8, 1956).

HUMAN EVENTS was founded in 1944 by Frank C. Hanighen. It is published weekly at 1835 K Street, N.W., Washington 6, D. C. and reports from Washington on politics, business, labor and taxes. It is usually published in two parts: a 4-page news section and a 4-page article. $10 per year.

TRIAL SUBSCRIPTIONS, new subscribers only: 5 weeks for $1.

ORDER BLANK

HUMAN EVENTS, 1835 K Street, N.W., Washington 6, D. C.

Send me.....reprints of "ARE SUBSIDIES SINFUL ONLY FOR SOCIALISTS?" at $..... ☐ Payment enclosed ☐ Bill me

Additional copies of this 2-page Article: single copy 15¢ (coins not stamps); 15 copies $1; 35 copies $2; 125 copies $5; 300 copies $10; 1,000 copies $20. In 5,000 lots $15 per thousand. Unless otherwise ordered, reprints are sent by fourth-class mail, which takes ten days to two weeks for delivery. For first-class mail delivery of 2-page articles, add ½¢ per copy; for airmail, add 1¢ per copy.

Prices of 4-page articles or news sections are as follows: single copy 20¢ (coins, not stamps); 10 copies $1; 25 copies $2; 100 copies $5; 500 copies $20; 1,000 copies $30. In 5,000 lots $25 per thousand.

Enter my subscription ☐ 5 weeks for $1 ☐ 1 year for $10

Name.....

Street.....

City.....Zone.....State.....

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

Vol. XIV, No. 51 HUMAN EVENTS December 21, 1957

Article Section I

THE ETERNAL CHRISTMAS

By E. MERRILL ROOT

CHRISTMAS, as the very word reveals, is "the Mass of Christ." *"Ite, missa est,* Go, you are dismissed," says the priest; and the faithful, strengthened with the earthly bread that renews them with the heavenly spirit, go forth into the world to live by the Word that, at the first and in every Christmas, is made flesh.

Modern man grows weak in character and feeble in mind as he refuses that living bread and scorns that divine spirit, denying the Christ who, very God, is here made very man. The resurrection of man comes only as he returns to the awe of the high worship and the glory of the high hope which center in that seed of Heaven, waiting its springtime in the human heart, which is the Eternal Christmas.

Here at Christmas, in the symbols of the world's greatest poem, lies the secret of the world. Here is the door, here is the key, not given us by "the teachings of Jesus" — by sterile "ideology," by barren "ideas," by illusory "ideals" — but by the living drama of the Word become "the way, the truth, and the life," in God's birthday as man. Thence comes the carol of the bells, the hue of the holly, the gloss of the evergreens, the merriment and the lovingkindness, the beatitude of the gifts: it is holiday because it is Holy Day.

Like all great poetry, Christmas is the only realism. The "realism" of the worm is ignorance of fact and limitation of experience — what can he know of reality who looks only at the loam, never at the rainbow and the star, the eyes of the beloved, the lamb or the lightning; who feels the dim vibrations of the mould, but never hears the stormy power of Beethoven or the poignant grace of Chopin, or the song of bird or wind; who knows feeding and fission, but not the bliss of lovers, the holiness of Francis, the passion of Shakespeare? We cannot be realists while we isolate ourselves in the lowest that excludes the highest; but only as we explore the highest that includes the lowest. The darkness cannot know even itself, but the light knows both itself and the darkness. In the realism of Christmas, the darkness of the world becomes lucid in the Word that is the Light of the World.

Christmas, therefore, quite rightly, began with stark and elemental things. Birth, as it always is, was hard; death, as it always is, was near. The way of the world, the natural actions of men, were as they always are: there was no room in the inn, and the taxgatherer went his mercenary rounds. The sword of Caesar in the hands of Herod cast its shadow even over God born in mortal flesh. The beasts of field and stall moved in their placid half-world where the mind is mixed with the mist of sleep. Fire, faithful and shaggy, leaped on the hearth to bark at the night and to keep the cold at bay. The stars maintained their strict march across heaven (save one that danced out of her orbit in jocund and permitted exuberance), and a mother's heart yearned over her first-born.

AND, AS ALWAYS, there were a few men sensitive to the secret wonder. The poor and simple of the earth, the shepherds too near work and need to be blinded by the cushions and veils and lendings of the world . . . the rich yet simple of the earth, the Wise Men too high in genius to be drugged with the somnolence called sophistication . . . these felt the universe stirring with the Second Creation. They felt, breaking through the patterns He had set, the Creator entering His creation, to renew from within the world He had made from without. The shepherds from below the world, the kings from above the world, knew what the smug and clever, the busy and brilliant, the practical and shallow and time-drugged, were too ignorant to suspect. And the Child, who was to say *"Before Abraham was, I am,"* knew, in the self-imposed limits of the flesh, what every baby knows — the pain of the first breath, the fright of the alien earth.

What, in essence, entered with that birthday of God? What was the gospel that the Christ *is?* An experience of the universe not as a theorem or equation, but as a *poem* — a poem whose tone is mystery and miracle and wonder, whose burden is the soul's infinite pilgrimage, forever individual, toward the infinite perfection! And is it not this in essence: that life is *a peace in passion, an adventure in rest?* The wise and compassionate Buddha shunned the passion and sought only the peace; he renounced the adventure that he might reach the rest. The noble and subtle Brahman saw the

Published weekly at 1835 K Street, N.W., Washington 6, D. C. • Copyright 1957 by HUMAN EVENTS, INC.

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

passion as Maya, the adventure as illusion; he accepted it with his senses but denied it with his mind, seeking for his soul the union with the One that meant the dissolution of the many. The neo-pagan stressed the passion and lost the peace, ending in thanksgiving to "whatever gods may be" that dead men rise up never and that rivers wind safe to sea. The modern positivist — destroying Nature by naturalism, deleting man by humanism — degrades passion into a spasm of the nerves and the peace that passes understanding into the "peace of mind" of the psychiatrist. But the Christian knows that time is the moving drama of Eternity, where the passion of Roland at Roncesvalles or Joan in the white flame rises into tragic peace, or where the eye resting on the roadside flower finds in that humble bloom the endless adventure of beauty. Only Christianity knows the peace in passion, the adventure even in rest; thus Christianity alone can bring the true Renaissance, which is the *Renaissance of Wonder.*

THAT STRANGEST of modern disciples, the pagan who found his Lord, Oscar Wilde, wrote in *De Profundis:*

> To me one of the things in history the most to be regretted, is that Christ's own renaissance which has produced the cathedral at Chartres, the Arthurian cycle of legends, the life of St. Francis of Assisi, the art of Giotto, and Dante's *Divine Comedy,* was not allowed to develop on its own lines, but was interrupted and spoiled by the dreary classical Renaissance that gave us Petrarch, and Raphael's frescoes, and Palladian architecture, and formal French tragedy, and St. Paul's cathedral, and Pope's poetry, and everything that is made from without and by dead rules, and does not spring from within and some spirit informing it. But wherever there is a romantic movement in art there somehow, and under some form, is Christ, or the soul of Christ. He is in *Romeo and Juliet,* in the *Winter's Tale,* in Provençal poetry, in the *Ancient Mariner,* in *La Belle Dame sans merci.* . . .

Out of the depths, indeed, wisdom speaks! And we can find Christmas, and the way and truth and life of Christ, only as we sense a certain tone, a certain mood of mystery and miracle, an awe, an immortal longing, a fountain of the eternal youth of wonder. It is the mood, as Wilde says, of the miracle play of Eternity, "coming fitfully and wilfully, as children, as flowers, are apt to do: spring always seeming to me as if the flowers had been in hiding, and only came out into the sun because they were afraid that grown-up people would grow tired of looking for them and give up the search. . . ."

That is the key of Christ, without which the world's music becomes discord, the world's bloom a sere and yellow leaf. The world today is dying of positivism. The worm is made the measure of all things: man is, supposedly, a function of the amoeba, not an arrow of longing for the angel: our immortal longings, repressed by the New Puritans, are mutilated into crass "adjustment" to public utility and private nihilism. "Facts" stamp on the face of truth; the illogic of rationalism mocks the logic of Reason; the machinery-mongers purge the sap from every tree, the blood from every artery. Like Tom Gradgrind, schoolmaster of Victorian England, they say: "Facts, Sir, nothing but facts!" Like O'Brien, in *1984,* they lust to take children from their mothers, "as one takes eggs from a hen . . . ," to reduce love "to an annual formality like the renewal of a ration card." They forget the lunacy of lovers under the Moon who is Artemis: they worship a lump of matter called Sputnik. They deny the many mansions, they affirm the concentration camp idolized as a sociological laboratory or a clinic for "mental health."

Yet as long as Christmas renews the world — as long as we ask and receive, and knock and it is opened — as long as we see the many mansions and the Living Vine of which we are the branches — the positivists rage in vain. Let nothing you dismay! "Christ's own renaissance" shall come, the candles and the holly shall glow, the carols shall ring. There is no room in the academic inn, and the children of this world, like Herod, hold the sword. But the children of men can never prevail against the Child who is God.

E. Merrill Root is Professor of English at Earlham College, Richmond, Indiana, and author of seven books of poetry. He has also written widely on political subjects. His most recent contribution to HUMAN EVENTS was "The Tax Slaves," July 27, 1957.

HUMAN EVENTS was founded in 1944 by Frank C. Hanighen. It is published weekly at 1835 K Street, N.W., Washington 6, D. C. and reports from Washington on politics, business, labor and taxes. It is usually published in two parts: a 4-page news section and a 4-page article. $10 per year.

TRIAL SUBSCRIPTIONS, new subscribers only: 5 weeks for $1.

ORDER BLANK

HUMAN EVENTS, 1835 K Street, N.W., Washington 6, D. C.

Send me.....reprints of "THE ETERNAL CHRISTMAS" at $..... ☐ Payment enclosed ☐ Bill me

Additional copies of this 2-page Article: single copy 15¢ (coins not stamps); 15 copies $1; 35 copies $2; 125 copies $5; 300 copies $10; 1,000 copies $20. In 5,000 lots $15 per thousand. Unless otherwise ordered, reprints are sent by fourth-class mail, which takes ten days to two weeks for delivery. For first-class mail delivery of 2-page articles, add ½¢ per copy; for airmail, add 1¢ per copy.

Prices of 4-page articles or news sections are as follows: single copy 20¢ (coins, not stamps); 10 copies $1; 25 copies $2; 100 copies $5; 500 copies $20; 1,000 copies $30. In 5,000 lots $25 per thousand.

Enter my subscription ☐ 5 weeks for $1 ☐ 1 year for $10

Name.....

Street.....

City.....Zone.....State.....

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

HUMAN EVENTS

Vol. XIV, No. 51 Saturday, December 21, 1957 Washington, D. C.

News Section

Printed in Two Sections

NATO: *More "Summit" appeasement?* (page 1)

MISSILES: *The squanderbund* (page 1)

Security vs. sabotage (page 2)

PROXMIRE: *Toward collective farms* (page 3)

BOOKS: *Admiral Moreell on power* (page 4)

Capitol Hill Talk: Russia is now turning out intermediate-range ballistic missiles (the ones which could hit Western Europe) in quantity production. Russia has the intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), the one that could hit New York and Washington, only in prototype. But in two years, it will be in quantity production. At that time, Russia will be able to serve the US with the Ultimate Ultimatum: surrender or die — unless we catch up.

● Senate Leaders who have heard the behind-closed-doors committee meetings say that we will have to work on missiles at top speed to pull even in the armaments race. Their slogan is: "There will never be a tomorrow, and everything must be done tonight." They compare the present situation to that following Pearl Harbor — only believe it to be far worse. It was this conviction that prompted Senate Leader Lyndon Johnson to demand that the limit of 40-hours-a-week on missiles be abolished. Labor leaders who opposed this aren't very popular on the Hill.

● "They say" that Ike is in far worse physical shape than Hagerty reports. Even those who do not like Nixon believe that he should succeed to the Presidency, as soon as possible. "There is no Government" is the common remark; another is "only Sherman Adams rules." Nixon — it is said — is "isolated" by the Adams clique. They won't let him have top-secret information which he should have. Nixon is privately showing no little animus towards Adams and the Palace Guard.

● *Missiles Administrator Killian is "no good." Even if he had "full powers," which he hasn't, he is too weak a man to wield them. Something will pop off about this in Congress when it assembles.*

● Senators are preparing to resist a strong campaign — propagated by the usual New York and "liberal" organs and commentators — for a Summit conference with Khrushchev (which was planned months ago and is now developing). This campaign is designed not only to appease Soviet Russia, but also to get rid of Secretary Dulles (who has been the outstanding opponent of such a Summit meeting).

Stassen (now in the doghouse) hopes by such means to climb back into the forefront again; his hopes are abetted by White House assistant Nelson Rockefeller (formerly with the Roosevelt and Truman New Deals). Powerful banking and foundation interests have been privately pushing the drive, and have had their effect on many Eastern newspapers and periodicals.

It is no accident — it is remarked — that the recent London radio lectures of former US diplomat George Kennan, apostle of appeasement (see HUMAN EVENTS for December 7, 1957), were all aimed at preparing the ground for the European demand for a Summit meeting with Khrushchev. Kennan is a bitter enemy of Dulles — the Secretary having "retired" Kennan in 1953, when the latter (then subordinate to Dulles) was publicly vocal against Dulles' announced policy of "massive retaliation."

The Senators are well aware of this developing appeasement campaign and believe that it was planned in the anticipation that the NATO meeting would fall short of its billing, and that then the argument could be made that the "only alternative" henceforth would be a meeting with the Kremlin leaders.

Senators, having canvassed and travelled the country, know that there is no sentiment in the US for a Summit meeting with the Kremlin, save in New York and where the "liberal" press works. They are prepared to go to Ike in the White House and serve notice on him that the Senate will not approve such a step; and then to take to the microphone and Senate floor to put their views to the public.

Truth About Missiles: The trajectories of the explosive estimates for weapons — fired off before the Senate Preparedness Subcommittee by generals, admirals, *etc.* — burst in a shower of dollars, creating an impression of illimitable budgets and unmanageable deficits. The generals and admirals do not necessarily desire such an outcome, but the resultant public image is inevitable — and important. Such is the judgment of old hands here who comprehend the jargon of bureaucrats; wise in the peculiar manners and customs of the bureaucratic tribe, they offer this interpretation of Capital goings-on:

● *Has the Pentagon really lacked money?* Best answer comes from the records. On February 13, 1956, Trevor Gardner, former missiles program chief and one of the present critics of alleged "economy," testified before the House Appropriations Committee:

Published weekly at 1835 K Street, N.W., Washington 6, D. C. • Copyright 1957 by HUMAN EVENTS, INC.

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

REPRESENTATIVE SIKES: Did you therefore have to limit the money that should have been spent on guided missiles?

MR. GARDNER: From the time we identified the importance of the ICBM and the IRBM, we were never funds limited. [Translation: bureaucrats in the missiles program have had all the money they need, ever since they decided they needed it.]

On May 18, 1956 General D. L. Putt of the Air Service similarly told the Senate Appropriations Committee: "I doubt whether additional dollars would expedite the availability date of the missile." In short, "lack of funds appropriated" as a reason for the missiles "lag" is one of the falsest notes in the current uproar.

● *Are the generals and admirals going wild with extravagant demands for missiles and money?* Not all demands are for purely wasteful spending. Some are absolutely necessary to survival. But these do not necessarily mean more money out of the exchequer. For the generals (and admirals), when they ask for more appropriations, really mean "more apportionment" for their own particular projects. They just want a bigger "cut out of the pie" of the whole Defense budget. They don't say this means less for "frills" (officers' clubs and golf courses, not to mention housing and living allowances for soldiers' dependents living abroad). Senators like Byrd and Bridges know this and can soundly assert that we can have the best weapons and find the money by cuts elsewhere in the Defense budget.

● *What makes generals tick?* A one-star general wants another star; a two-star general, with a terrifying single passion, wants to be a three-star general; and so on. That complex, plus a ferocious loyalty to his service branch and a compulsion to logroll with other branches — all this pours water on the mill of massive and wasteful spending.

● *Is interservice rivalry the sole cause of waste?* Interservice rivalry is bad, but interservice and intra-service logrolling to boost appropriations is worse. Example: within the Army, a general on assignment A shrinks from cutting funds from another general on assignment B. Why? Because the first general knows he might be reassigned, within a year, to take the place of the second general, in charge of assignment B. Or he might find himself under the second general in some other future assignment. Thus generals make their deals and present a united front before the congressional funds committees; same with the admirals. And both admirals and generals (Army and Air) make deals among themselves.

● *Are the armed services alone to blame?* Not by any means. Behind the admirals and generals are ranged many substantial vested interests. Cut down on obsolete installations and types? Such a proposal arouses big industrial companies (and their financiers). Also, research companies line up with the industrialists, because the needed revamping would knock out obsolete lines of research. And behind these companies are the universities, who want to keep their faculty members, technologists and scientists on the Government payroll or feeding on Government grants-in-aid. The influence of the universities is formidable, for this is a Republic of the Professors. All these elements collaborate to continue their spending projects (often outmoded), logrolling in concert against the taxpayer.

● *Civilian bureaucrats.* This is the most powerful "lobby" of all. For the impelling motive of the bureaucrat is to advance from Civil Service Grade 15 (salary: $11,610) to Grade 18 (salary: $14,800). What is a passion with the generals becomes a religion with the bureaucrats. By tenacious finagling, they really run all the departments of Government.

The most laughable myth now propagated by the "liberal" Democratic Senators is that Defense Secretary Charles Wilson set us back in the arms race by economizing. It is well known here that Wilson actually never ran the Defense Department at all. He thought he did — but about all that the bureaucrats allowed him to do was to make decisions as to whether Company A got a contract instead of Company B. The Roosevelt-Truman holdovers and their kinsmen among the scientists — not Wilson — are the men really responsible for the missile lag.

● *Missiles and Members of Congress.* Here is where the hope for a way out of the tangled mess described above appears. Senators and Representatives, of course, are too often vulnerable when it is a matter of cutting out an airfield or hospital in their own bailiwicks. Yet this sort of elimination offers the best chance of getting weapons and paying for them. Members of Congress know this very well and also know that only thus can the Nation survive.

Hence, the cry for a "missile czar" or a "civilian administrator with full powers" comes mainly from Capitol Hill. Senators not only want the job done well and quickly—they also want to be "taken off the hook." If sole responsibility for "stepping on toes" is lodged in some nonelective individual (as it was in the case of General Groves in the famous Manhattan "crash" project of the last war), they will give their votes to that end. It is indeed a hope—and it may come to pass after the first of the year.

Secrecy and Security: Warnings concerning the dangers of Communist espionage and sabotage in America's missile project have been frequently relayed in these columns. In its issue of October 12, 1957, HUMAN EVENTS reported the statements of former Communists Igor Gouzenko and David Greenglass, indicating that the USSR could not have launched an earth satellite without access to the secrets of American rocketry. On November 23, 1957, HUMAN EVENTS reported doubts over the ability of so-called "missile czar" James T. Killian — in the light of his previous anti-anti-Communist statements — to "take the measures necessary to keep [Communists] from infiltrating the sprawling US missile project."

Last week, in connection with the explosion of the Vanguard rocket at Cape Canaveral, HUMAN EVENTS stated: "A mere twist of the wrist can destroy the delicate balance and coordination of the rocket's components.

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

This high susceptibility to sabotage, say the analysts, means that security screening must be absolute."

This week, reports confirming the burden of these warnings now begin to emanate from the highest Government sources. David Sentner, head of the Hearst Newspapers' Washington bureau, stated December 17: "Ike believes there may be Communists in the missile program. He would be the last one to air this view publicly lest Presidential critics picture him as trying to create an alibi for the puff-out of the Vanguard satellite test in Florida. However, the possibility that sabotage had something to do with the Vanguard debacle has caused an intensive check to be conducted by the FBI and military intelligence agencies."

Our Vanishing Solvency: Free market economists stress the significance of a single statistic released last week by the Census Bureau. Issuing its first report on assessed property valuation in the United States, the Bureau set the figure at $280.4 billion. This is barely $6 billion above the acknowledged national debt of the United States (Treasury representatives contacted by HUMAN EVENTS this week place the current debt at $274.7 billion).

Progressive Education: Responsible parties in America's "progressive education" debacle are now attempting to fend off charges that classroom techniques promoting "adjustment" and "togetherness" have damaged the Nation's relative standing in the scientific field. Dr. Hollis J. Caswell, president of Teachers College, Columbia University, stated last week in the college's annual report that "if we permit fear of Russia's material strength to determine the emphasis given to our curriculum, we most certainly shall not have an education which meets the broader range of educational needs of our country and our people." Caswell added that 95 per cent of American high school students have at least one year of instruction in mathematics.

Opponents of progressivism agree that "fear" of the Soviet Union should not dictate American educational policy; but they point out that Caswell's statement is in reality a plea to let the progressivists continue teaching "life adjustment," rather than training students in the fundamentals essential for scientific work and all other forms of disciplined thought necessary for survival.

A well-known authority on US education, Mortimer Smith, commented this week on the claims of the progressivists. Smith, Executive Secretary of the Council for Basic Education and author of *And Madly Teach* and *The Diminished Mind*, told HUMAN EVENTS:

"Although I am highly suspicious of most educational statistics, let us grant that 95 per cent of US high school students may take one year of math; but also let us ask how good it is and how competent are those who teach it. Professional mathematicians are appalled by the quality of math teaching in most high schools." Smith also noted that "a group of liberal arts scholars at the University of Nebraska have recently stated that in 1956 in the state of Nebraska only three graduates preparing for teaching science in the public schools majored in physics."

The "vital subjects of the curriculum" Smith concluded, "have been sacrificed in our efforts to make the student happy, to develop his personality, and to adjust him to his environment.

"The Council for Basic Education feels that we need a revolution in educational theory and practice and a bold repudiation of the social adjustment theory, which is nothing less than a fraud against the future of American young people — not to mention the future of the Nation."

BOUND VOLUMES FOR 1957 — with index — may be ordered for March delivery. ORDERS POSTMARKED BEFORE JANUARY 15, 1958 will be accepted at the $7.50 price. Regular price, $15. Bound, indexed volumes for 1955 and 1956 available at $15. None available for previous years.

Proxmire: In its issue of September 7, 1957, HUMAN EVENTS reported on the left-wing proclivities of Wisconsin Senator William Proxmire, who had campaigned for the seat of the late Senator McCarthy as an "economy" advocate. Seen as a prelude to a still more radical leftward plunge by the freshman Senator was a meeting held last week in Madison, Wisconsin, by Proxmire's advisory committee of "Wisconsin farm and dairy leaders" — for the purpose of mapping farm legislation to be presented at this session of Congress.

A preliminary draft of this bill circulating in Washington shows it to be the zaniest piece of farm legislation since Henry Wallace left the Agriculture Department. Its proposals include: (1) that farmers "be permitted to substitute their net earnings during any of the years, 1950 through 1954, for their net earnings during any of the years, 1955 through 1957, in establishing their base earnings for computing their Social Security retirement benefits"; (2) a "food stamp program" which would "enable families to purchase for 40 per cent of the family income, sufficient food coupons to enable them to buy enough food to provide each member of the family with a dietary standard determined to be adequate to maintain good health"; (3) a "school milk program" to provide all American school children with "at least two half-pints of milk per day" (Wisconsin is America's largest milk-producing state). The rest of the bill is full of collectivist gobbledygook concerning "farm income stabilization," "Food and Fiber Reserve" banks, and "The National All-Commodity Marketing Goal"—complete with coupons, certificates, and "farm income stabilization fees." One stated goal of the bill is "helping to absorb temporary world market surpluses, and to finance economic and social development programs."

This stew of collectivist proposals, say farm experts, "out-Brannans the Brannan plan." (As Truman's Secretary of Agriculture, Charles Brannan concocted a farm plan which would have superseded the "parity" price support program by putting farmers on a permanent Government dole, regardless of price fluctuations.)

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

But — they continue — it is only what one would expect from surveying the "advisory committee" which Proxmire has assembled around him.

Among those scheduled to assemble in Madison last week to confer with the new Senator, no less than five hold some kind of office in the Farmers Union, the extreme left-wing farm organization. In a famous speech delivered September 7, 1950, Senator Styles Bridges (R.-N.H.) presented extensive evidence to show that "persons who are Communist sympathizers, or Communist coddlers occupy positions of great influence in the national and some state headquarters of the Farmers Union"; and that "the Farmers Union so consistently espouses Communist causes, parrots Communist propaganda, and refuses to denounce Communists for their activities as to preclude the possibility of accident or coincidence." And — as HUMAN EVENTS noted at the time — "the speech also offers evidence of Communist influence which helped to shape the brazen Brannan Plan" (September 13, 1950).

Right To Work: Currently circulating in the Capital is a document entitled "Seventeen Propositions on 'Right-to-Work' Laws," compiled by Sister Mary Margaret Patricia. The "propositions" are quotations expressing Catholic opinion on the question of compulsory unionism, taken from encyclicals and other doctrinal statements of the Popes. Included are such opinions as the following:

● *Pope Pius XII, 1952 Christmas message:* "Consciences are today also afflicted by other oppressions . . . access to employment or to places of labor is made to depend upon registration in certain parties or in certain organizations which trace their origin to the labor market. Such discriminations are indicative of a wrong concept of the proper function of labor unions and of their essential purpose. . . .

"Is not their purpose to protect the individual against the collective irresponsibility of anonymous owners? Is it not to represent the person of the worker against those who are inclined to consider him merely as a productive agent with a determined price value? How, therefore, can they consider it normal that the protection of the rights of the worker be more and more in the hands of an anonymous group, working through the agency of immense organizations which are of their very nature monopolies? The worker, thus wronged in the exercise of his personal rights, will surely find especially painful the oppression of his liberty and of his conscience, caught as he is in the wheels of a gigantic social machine."

● *Leo XIII, Rerum Novarum:* "There is a good deal of evidence which goes to prove that many of these societies [labor organizations] are in the hands of invisible leaders and are managed on principles far from compatible with Christianity and the public well-being; and that they do their best to get into their hands the whole field of labor and to force workmen either to join them or to starve."

Book Event: *Our Nation's Water Resources—Policies and Politics*, by Ben Moreell; University of Chicago Press; 266 pp.; $3.50.

Admiral Ben Moreell, organizer of the Seabees of World War II, served as Chairman of the Task Force on Water Resources and Power of the Second Hoover Commission from November, 1953, through June, 1955. This book, an outgrowth of a lecture series at the University of Chicago in 1956, surveys Federal water policies and power developments. Warning that the present generation should not endanger the Nation's future water supply by short-term policies based on political expediency, Moreell makes a strong case for water development by private enterprise. Lucid and challenging, this book reaffirms the author's reputation as one of the Nation's leading authorities on conservation and a fighter for the libertarian philosophy.

All books reviewed or condensed in HUMAN EVENTS may be obtained, at the bookstore price, from The Bookmailer, Box 101, Murray Hill Station, New York 16, N.Y.

Between Covers: "The tragedy of being a Negro in this period of NAACP leadership is that to deviate from its line is to invite personal disaster. I know this from personal experience." So writes Clennon King, Negro professor at Alcorn College in Mississippi, in the current (January) issue of the *American Mercury*.

OWEN BREWSTER, Former Senator from Maine: "I find factual material of importance in HUMAN EVENTS that I find nowhere else. It is refreshing, stimulating and uniquely helpful in appraising the Washington scene against the background of world events."

JOHN F. GUMMERE, Headmaster, William Penn Charter School, Philadephia: "I find HUMAN EVENTS interesting, informative and indispensable."

ANER O. BLOOM, Pastor, Bethel Lutheran Church, Los Angeles: "HUMAN EVENTS has brought insights and information on national and world affairs more clearly and impartially than any other news medium. Although I often read divergent and controversial reports, HUMAN EVENTS, by its factual reports, helps to guide to stable thinking."

Additional copies of this 4-page News Section: single copy 20¢ (coins, not stamps); 10 copies $1; 25 copies $2; 100 copies $5; 500 copies $20; 1000 copies $30. In 5000 lots $25 per thousand. Unless otherwise ordered, reprints are sent by fourth-class mail which takes ten days to two weeks for delivery. For first-class mail delivery, add one cent a copy; for airmail, add two cents a copy.

TRIAL SUBSCRIPTION to HUMAN EVENTS for new subscribers only: 5 weeks $1.
Yearly rate, $10; 6 months, $6; 3 months, $3.
By first class mail, $12 a year; by airmail (including APO and FPO) $14 a year. FOREIGN: by regular mail, $13 a year; airmail, $18.
Allow us 2 weeks to process new subscriptions and changes of address.
The Declaration of Independence opens: "When in the course of HUMAN EVENTS . . ."

FRANK C. HANIGHEN, *Editor and Publisher*
JAMES L. WICK, *Executive Publisher*
Contributing Editors: FRANK CHODOROV, M. STANTON EVANS

HUMAN EVENTS, 1835 K Street, N.W., Washington 6, D. C., is a weekly newsletter reporting from Washington on politics, business, labor and taxes. It was founded in 1944 by Frank C. Hanighen. Published usually in two sections: a 4-page news section and a 4-page article section. Entered as second class matter at Washington, D. C. Copyright 1957.

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED